

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response/amendment is submitted in response to the office action dated January 4, 2006. Claim 24 has been amended to correct a grammatical error. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Claims 17-19, 21, and 23-29 remain in this application.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 17 and 25 were provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 09/932,240. Applicant includes a terminal disclaimer to overcome this provisional rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

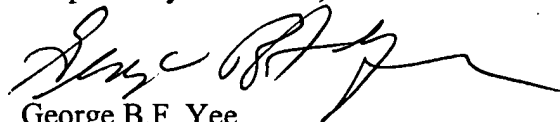
Claims 17-19 and 21-29 were found to be patentable (*Applicant notes that inclusion of claim 22 is in error, having been previously canceled*) and would be considered allowable if a proper and timely filed terminal disclaimer was filed in response to the non-statutory double patenting rejection. In response, Applicant has submitted a terminal disclaimer.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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